

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03131 072225Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 L-03 SP-02 INR-10
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O 072110Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4892

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3131

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

KINSTON FOR AMBASSADOR IRVING FROM AMBASSADOR YOST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SOP, DR, JM
SUBJECT: EL CARIBE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

REF KINGSTON 4533

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF
EL CARIBE DIRECTOR ORNES CITED IN LETTER OF CANEL (EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY OF IAPA) TO CLARKE. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE,
SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON PARAS 2-6 IN RESPONDING TO CLARKE.

2. AT NO TIME, DURING THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS OF MAY
16, OR BEFORE OR SINCE, DID THE EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO EXERT
PRESSURE ON CARIBE OR ANY OTHER DOMINICAN NEWSPAPER. THE
EMBASSY DID PERFORM ITS NORMAL FUNCTION OF KEEPING THE PRESS
ADVISED OF US POLICIES AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER,
SECRETARY VANCE AND IN STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, PARTICULARLY
BY PROVIDING THE FULL TEXTS OF THE RELEVANT STATEMENTS.

3. THE STATEMENTS OF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS DURING THE UNCERTAINTY
FOLLOWING THE MAY 16 ELECTION NOTED THAT SUBVERSION OF THE
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ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. REMARKS MADE BY EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES IN DELIVERING THE TEXTS OF SUCH STATEMENTS DID
NO GO BEYOND REITERATING THE POINTS IN THE WASHINGTON STATEMENTS.
THE SAME POINTS WERE MADE IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS OF EMBASSY
OFFICERS WITH THEIR DOMINICAN CONTACTS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT.

4. THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES WHO DELIVERED THE TEXTS OF THE WASHINGTON STATEMENTS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PUBLISH THEM IN FULL TO CONVEY THE TRUEUS POSITION. WIRE SERVICE STORIES HAD GIVEN MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS IN PUBLISHING EXTRACTS. AT NO TIME HAS THERE BEEN ANY SOLICITATION BY ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THIS MISSION TO PUBLISH AN EDITORIAL.

5. THE VIEWS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON PUBLIC ASSURANCES MADE AT THE TIME BY SECRETARY OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE CONVEYED IN PRESS BRIEFINGS BY A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY OFFICERS DID NOT ELABORATE ON THESE REMARKS.

6. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SEE NO REASON NOT TO MAINTAIN SAME NORMAL CONTACT WITH EL CARIBE AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT, DOES NOT NOW AND WILL NOT ENGAGE IN DISCREDITING OR FAVORING PARTICULAR NEWSPAPERS OR MEDIA OFFICIALS, NOR HAS IT HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THE IAPA, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, CONCERNING ANYONE'S STANDING IN THE ORGANIZATION.

7. FYI. EL CARIBE HAS BEEN CIRITICAL OF THE US POSITION ON DISRUPTION OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER, PORTRAYING THEM AS "INTERVENTION." IT HAS ALSO CHARACTERIZED NORMAL INFORMATION-GATHERING ACTIVITIES OF EMBASSY OFFICERS AS "INTERFERENCE." IT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS CONNECTION THAT EL CARIBE HAS STOOD ALMOST ALONE AMONG DOMINICAN NEWSPAPERS IN REFRAINING FROM EDITORIAL

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CRITICISM OF THE INTERRUPTION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OR FROM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS WAS AN ABNORMALITY. ITS EDITORS MAY THUS BE CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL CRITICISM OF ITS ROLE IN POST-ELECTION PERIOD AND BE SEEKING TO LIGHT A BACKFIRE AGAINST THIS.

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Message Attributes

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